The number of suicide by farmers because of agriculture-related reasons as reported by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra since the year 2003, are as follows:

Andhra Pradesh			Maharashtra		
2003-04	-	393	2003-04	-	170
2004-05	-	1126	2004-05	-	620
2005-06	-	300	2005-06	-	572
2006-07 (upto 31.5.2006)	-	11	2006-07 (upto June 30)	-	746

Uttar Pradesh Government has reported that there have been six cases of suicide by farmers in the Bundelkhand area of the State, but none of these cases are found related to the recovery of agricultural loans or to any coercive methods. Details on other parts of the State are awaited from the State Government.

(e) The Government of India has recently approved a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, involving a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore. The package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc.

Relief package for Vidarbha

270. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the relief package announced for the Vidarbha region after the visit of the Prime Minister;

(b) whether Government are cognizant of the continued cases of suicide by farmers ever since the visit of the Prime Minister to that region;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are monitoring the implementation of the relief packages, if so, whether Government are satisfied with its implementation; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken to improve the implementation of relief package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The salient features of the rehabilitation package announced are as under:

1. ex-gratia assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund
2. debt relief to farmers
3. improved credit flow
4. interest waiver
5. assured irrigation facilities
6. seed replacement programme
7. watershed development
8. horticulture development
9. micro irrigation
10. improved extension services
11. subsidiary income opportunities through livestock, fisheries, etc.

(b) to (e) There have been reports of suicide by farmers. As the rehabilitation package has recently been approved for implementation, it is too early to assess its impact at ground level.

To ensure effective and time-bound implementation of the rehabilitation package, State level as well as district level committees have been constituted. Besides, the Government of India is regularly monitoring the progress of implementation of the rehabilitation package and the progress of implementation is satisfactory.